Remarks

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-7 are pending.

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,152,656 to Curtis et al. is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 8 without prejudice. This rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May // , 2006

Edwin V. Merkel Registration No. 40,087

NIXON PEABODY LLP Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051

Rochester, New York 14603-1051

Telephone: (585) 263-1128 Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

☑ deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450